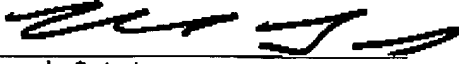


PATENT

MS306454.1 / MSFTP518US

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being faxed to 703-872-9306 on the date shown below to Mail Stop: Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

OFFICIAL

In re patent application of:

Applicant(s): Raymond W. McCollum, *et al.*

Examiner: Unknown

Serial No: 10/692,216

Art Unit: 2171

Filing Date: October 23, 2003

Title: MODEL-BASED MANAGEMENT OF COMPUTER SYSTEMS AND
DISTRIBUTED APPLICATIONS

Mail Stop: Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Entry of this preliminary amendment is respectfully requested prior to performing substantive examination of the above-identified patent application.

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